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July 7, 2003

**OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK180-3-8**

**SUBJECT: CPA – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Guidance**

**Purpose:** To distribute information regarding “interim policy” on the development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) as required by the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2003

Participants in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) who will have approved 2003 contracts for financial and technical assistance to install animal waste systems (waste storage facilities and waste treatment lagoons) are required to have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) in place **prior** to the installation of the practice(s) and completed during the contract period. National planning policy, 180GM, Part 409.10(g)(1), requires a certification program for “CNMP Specialists” to assist with development of CNMP’s.

Currently in Oklahoma there are no “CNMP Specialists”. Approximately 150 NRCS employees are certified as “Nutrient Management Specialists”. It is anticipated that sometime this fall a formal Oklahoma CNMP Specialist Course will be developed in cooperation with Oklahoma State University for the purpose of certifying “CNMP Specialists”.

Since there is a requirement for CNMP plan development in EQIP contracts that include waste storage facilities and waste treatment lagoons, we are implementing an “interim policy” on CNMP plan development and certification to be used until a formal certification course is in place to deal with this issue. The “interim policy” is as follows:

- Technical Service Office (TSO) Resource Engineers (RE) will be responsible for working with the appropriate field offices to assure that the **Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage** components are properly designed by the RE **prior to** the installation by the participant. **The RE will sign-off on this component.**
- TSO Resource Specialists (RS) will be responsible for working with the appropriate field offices to assure that the **Nutrient Management** component of the CNMP meets our FOTG. This includes the use of the Nutrient Management Standard (590), the Waste Utilization Standard (633) for land application of animal wastes and application of nutrients at agronomic rates. **A Certified Nutrient Management Specialist must sign-off on this component.**
- The **Land Treatment** component of a CNMP could involve both engineering and agronomic practices. Resource Engineers (RE) and Resource Specialists (RS) will work with the appropriate field offices to plan and design the required land treatment practices for the CNMP. **This component must be approved by either the RE or RS.**
- The **Record Keeping** component of a CNMP is required to be kept by the client and **does not** need to be certified by NRCS. The **Feed Management** component of a CNMP also **does not** require certification by NRCS.

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The National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH), Part 600.5, Amendment 4, March 2003 has been revised to include the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Technical Guidance. This document has details on the official planning policy and criteria to develop a CNMP. The contents and format of a CNMP are located in Exhibit 15 of the NPPH. Exhibit 15 is being attached to this bulletin for your information.

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Freeland, State Resource Conservationist at 405-742-1240, or Larry Poindexter, Nutrient Management Specialist, at 405-742-1221.

/s/

M. DARREL DOMINICK  
State Conservationist

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Attachment